

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE 1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1500

0 5 FEB 2003

The Honorable Duncan Hunter Chairman, Committee on Armed Services U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 12310(c)(5), title 10, United States Code, I am proud to inform you that the 35<sup>th</sup> Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) from St. Albans, West Virginia, and the Reserve members assigned to the team, possess the requisite skills, training, and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements and are hereby considered certified. Certification authority has been delegated to this office to act on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

This team has conducted extensive training and completed two rigorous external evaluations. The 35<sup>th</sup> WMD-CST is equipped with state of the art equipment to support the civil responders in responding to WMD terrorist attacks. As each of the remaining teams is certified to be proficient, separate letters will be forwarded to you. These teams reflect the Department's commitment to support the nation in this regard. I thank you and the committee for your support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

T. F. Hall

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